

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE UPDATE

MAY 6, 2002

The state of Vermont has placed a ban on the importation of any cervids into that state. The ban will be reviewed every six months to determine if it needs to continue.

Congressman Scott McInnis of Colorado has scheduled a hearing for the House Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee concerning CWD. The hearing will be in Washington, D. C. on Thursday, May 16, 2002. Congressman's McInnis' office has invited Bruce Morrison to appear before the subcommittee and present testimony from Nebraska.

The State of Missouri has placed a ban on the import of any cervid into the state from May 11, 2002 through August 31, 2002. During that time, the State Department of Agriculture will consult with the Missouri Department of Conservation to develop long term regulations on the import of cervids.

The Colorado Wildlife Commission has approved regulations banning the removal of deer and elk carcasses from their endemic area. They also banned the transport of any carcass from any other endemic area into Colorado. To be moved, the carcasses must be boned out and only the meat, clean hide and clean skull plate may be transported.

The Colorado Wildlife Commission gave initial approval to policy language that authorized the Division of Wildlife to utilize any means available to stamp out CWD outside the endemic area, including using Division sharpshooters and airplanes to remove large numbers of wild deer and elk in any area where CWD is found.

The Wisconsin DNR has instituted a plan to kill every deer within a 285 square mile area around their positive area to halt the spread of CWD. This effort will kill an estimated 15,000 white-tail deer. The hunting season to do this started today (May 6, 2002) with unlimited permits and unlimited bag. Their aim is to kill these deer within the next 12 months.